

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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R 240950Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY BERLIN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7425
INFO AMEMBASSY WARSAW
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
USMISSION USBERLIN
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E.O.11652: N/A
TAGS: PEPR, GE, SF
SUBJECT: AFRICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS HEAD VISITS
EAST BERLIN

1. OLIVER TAMBO, PRESIDENT OF THE AFRICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS OF SOUTH AFRICA (ANC), VISITED EAST BERLIN AT THE INVITATION OF THE SED CENTRAL COMMITTEE BEGINNING MAY 16. DURING HIS STAY HE MET WITH SED TOP LEADERS, INCLUDING PARTY CHIEF HONECKER AND HERMANN AXEN, PARTY SECRETARY FOR INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS.

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2. TAMBO WAS ACCOMPANIED BY MGJIMI DHLADLA, MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND THE REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL, AND JOSIAH JELE, A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, AND OTHERS, NOT IDENTIFIED.

3. DURING THE OFFICIAL TALKS (AS REPORTED

IN NEUES DEUTSCHLAND), HONECKER STATED THE GDR IS READY TO CONTINUE TO PROVIDE ACTIVE POLITICAL, DIPLOMATIC AND MATERIAL SUPPORT TO THE PEOPLE OF SOUTH AFRICA. TOGETHER WITH THE USSR AND OTHER SOCIALIST STATES, HE SAID, THE GDR WILL CONTRIBUTE TO THE STRENGTHENING OF ANTI-IMPERIALIST TIES WITH THE MOVEMENT FOR NATIONAL AND SOCIAL LIBERATION. BOTH SIDES REPORTEDLY EXPRESSED THE DETERMINATION TO DEVELOP FURTHER THE RELATIONS BETWEEN THE SED AND THE AFRICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS.

4. IN A PRESS CONFERENCE ON MAY 19, TAMBO EXPRESSED GRATITUDE FOR THE HELP FROM THE USSR AND OTHER SOCIALIST COUNTRIES INCLUDING THE GDR. TAMBO CRITICIZED THE "COORDINATED IMPERIALIST INTERVENTION" IN SOUTHERN AFRICA WHICH IS ATTEMPTING TO CREATE A REFORMIST OPPOSITION IN ORDER TO PREVENT A "REVOLUTIONARY SOLUTION." HE DENOUNCED THE "NUCLEAR PLOT" BETWEEN BONN AND PRETORIA AS AN ELEMENT OF NATO'S HELP TO SOUTH AFRICA AND A DANGER TO OTHER AFRICAN NATIONS. IN CONCLUSION, TAMBO TOLD HIS EAST GERMAN LISTENERS THAT "WE KNOW THAT WE HAVE THE SAME ENEMY."

5. IN A RELATED DEVELOPMENT, ALL OF THE MASS ORGANIZATIONS OF THE GDR (TRADE UNION, NATIONAL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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FRONT, FREE GERMAN YOUTH, ETC.) ISSUED A JOINT DECLARATION MAY 22 IN CONNECTION WITH THE BEGINNING OF THE "WEEK OF SOLIDARITY WITH NATIONAL AND SOCIAL LIBERATION OF THE PEOPLE OF AFRICA AND THE STRUGGLE AGAINST RACISM." THE STATEMENT EXPRESSED SOLIDARITY WITH THE AFRICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS, WITH THE PEOPLE OF ZIMBABWE, NAMIBIA, ANGOLA AND MOZAMBIQUE AND WITH SOCIALIST ETHIOPIA. THE DECLARATION CALLS FOR THE FALL OF THE LAST BASTIONS OF COLONIALISM. IT CONDEMNS THE "TACTICAL MANEUVERS WITH WHICH IMPERIALISM AND ITS ALLIES ARE ATTEMPTING TO SAVE THEIR POSITION BY DIVIDING THE LIBERATION MOVEMENT FROM ITS NATURAL ALLIES; THE SOCIALIST COMMUNITY AND THE REVOLUTIONARY WORKERS MOVEMENT.

6. COMMENT: THE VISIT OF TAMBO SEEMS TO MARK A TURNING POINT IN RELATIONS BETWEEN THE SED AND THE AFRICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS (ANC). AS FAR AS WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO TELL FROM PUBLIC POSITIONS, IN THE PAST THE EAST GERMAN PARTY'S ASSOCIATION WITH THE ANC HAS BEEN SIGNIFICANTLY LESS CLOSE THEN

WITH SWAPO IN NAMIBIA AND ZAPU IN ZIMBABWE AND
CONSIDERABLY LESS THEN WITH FRELIMO AND MPLA.
ALTHOUGH THE LATE WERNER LAMBERZ MET TAMBO IN
FEBRUARY 1977 IN MAPUTO THERE SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN
LITTLE OR NO ACTIVITY SINCE, OR AT LEAST NONE
ANNOUNCED. THIS VISIT GIVES A CLEAR SIGN
THAT THE SED WILL SUPPORT THE ANC, AT LEAST POLITICALLY
AND PROBABLY WILL EXPAND ITS TIES. END COMMENT.
BOLEN

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